

### **3B: CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM: TRAINING FOR LOCAL CLEAN CITIES COALITIONS TO BUILD SELF-SUSTAINING ORGANIZATIONS**

**Background and Objectives:** The Clean Cities Program was initiated by DOE under Section 505 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in order to accelerate the voluntary use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). The DOE Clean Cities Program has encouraged the formation of coalitions, comprised of public and private sector organizations, in major metropolitan areas throughout the U.S. to expand both production and utilization of AFVs and the development of necessary refueling infrastructure to support such vehicle use. Coalitions that meet stringent designation criteria are formally accepted into the Clean Cities Program. Since 1993, DOE has designated more than 80 Clean Cities across the U.S. A typical Clean Cities coalition is comprised of stakeholders from local, state and federal governments, transit authorities, fuel providers, local auto dealerships, private sector fleet managers, and industry. Each coalition is led by a Clean Cities coordinator who is responsible for building partnerships to provide additional AFVs and stations; obtaining funding for such projects; and educating the public and fleet managers about AFVs.

In March 2001, the Clean Cities Program announced three goals, including having 75 percent of all Clean Cities coalitions self-sustaining by 2005. Therefore, DOE must provide local Clean Cities coalitions with adequate training programs to ensure that they have the necessary tools and abilities to become self-sustaining organizations.

**Program Area of Interest:** DOE is seeking applicants to provide AFV training to local Clean Cities coalitions and their stakeholders that will result in more effective coalitions and increased alternative fuel use by fleet managers and vehicle operators. This includes driver education, AFV market development and market assessment training, and specialized technical training related to alternative fuel infrastructure and vehicle technologies. Applicants are expected to develop and provide appropriate training tools, coordinated with established AFV training programs in industry, and in some cases actually conduct training modules. Separate proposals are requested in the following three training areas:

#### **1. Educate Drivers in State Fleets**

One of the major problems preventing increased fuel use in EPA-covered federal and state fleets is the extra time or effort needed to actually fuel AFVs with alternative fuels. Moreover, there continues to be misconceptions among the general populace about the safety of alternative fuels. To give drivers more comfort and confidence with fueling AFVs with alternative fuels and more aware of issues surrounding the importance of alternative fuel use, DOE seeks proposals to provide a national program on driver training for alternative fuels. The training should be developed in separate modules for each of the alternative fuels, and then promoted and made available nationally to federal and state fleets and other interested parties, as part of their regular driver training curricula. If a federal or state fleet does not offer a driver training program, then Clean Cities coordinators or stakeholders could use the materials to provide the training. Candidate fleet should be able to select and use the appropriate training module for whatever fuel or fuels that are applicable for them. In addition, proposals should include provisions for 4-6 regional "Train the Trainer" workshops aimed particularly at state and federal driver training and fleet administrators, as well as, other relevant Clean Cities stakeholder participants. Preference will be given to applicants that have extensive driver training and fleet training experience, knowledge of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, capabilities to write and produce materials in multi-media formats including dissemination via the Clean Cities web site. The Clean Cities program is interested in funding one (1) project in this category not to exceed \$50,000 - \$90,000.

#### **2. Provide Market Development Training to Clean Cities Coalitions**

To assist coalitions with building self-sustaining markets, Clean Cities Coalitions should have market development plans to determine the market potential in each applicable niche markets and the steps necessary to achieve success. The applicant should provide training in work plan development, including organizational development and stakeholder recruitment, funding, and outreach. The applicant should provide workshops to teach coordinators and stakeholders how to develop a comprehensive market plan and effectively use local resources and programs. The applicant should also follow-up with coalitions

receiving training to provide feedback on plan development and plan implementation and to monitor progress. A lessons-learned final report from each of the coalitions trained should also be a deliverable of the grant. DOE is requesting training for seven (7) coalitions. The Clean Cities program is interested in funding one (1) project in this category not to exceed \$30,000 - \$40,000.

### **3. Offer a Scholarship Program to Clean Cities Stakeholders Needing Technical Training**

Clean Cities stakeholders often need the latest information on various alternative fuels and vehicle technologies, and refueling equipment (infrastructure). The applicant should propose an approach to develop and manage a program where stakeholders of designated Clean Cities coalitions can attend technical training on alternative fuels and vehicle technologies at approved colleges or in association with other established or customized AFV training programs. DOE would like to make stipends available to approximately 50 stakeholders. This program should have the flexibility to facilitate classroom training on campus or fleet home base locations, field training exercises with peer fleets where unique equipment and vehicles are in operation, and train-the-trainer activities. An evaluation of each training activity that includes student feedback should also be an element of the grant. The Clean Cities program is interested in funding one (1) project in this category, not to exceed \$60,000-\$90,000.

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| <b>Estimate of Total Available Funds in FY 2002:</b>     | \$220,000           |
| <b>Estimated Range in FY 2002 DOE Funding Per Award:</b> | \$30,000-\$90,000   |
| <b>Estimated Range in Total DOE Funding Per Award:</b>   | \$30,000-\$90,000   |
| <b>Estimated Number of Award:</b>                        | 4 - 5 awards        |
| <b>Anticipated Project Period:</b>                       | One to Two Years    |
| <b>Cost Share Requirement:</b>                           | Encouraged/Not Req. |
| <b>Type of Assistance:</b>                               | Grant               |